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THE COSMIC AVENGER!

QUASAR™

GUEST-STARRING:

EXCALIBUR™

VS.

THE FURY OF PHOENIX!

Stan Lee presents

QUASAR

WAY BELOW THE PACIFIC OCEAN...

WHATEVER THESE SLIPPERY LITTLE DEVILS ARE, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO ESCAPE ME NOW!

BY THE TIME I GET TO PHOENIX

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WHAT THE--? WHERE'D--?

GAHHH-- THEY *SPLIT UP* ALL OF A SUDDEN AND LEFT ME IN THE *FROTH!*

AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF UNDERWATER *SUBHUNTING*-- I FINALLY GET A *SIGHTING*, AND THEN *PFFFT!*

WHATEVER THOSE *AQUATIC ALIENS* ARE, THEY'RE UNBELIEVABLY *FAST!* I COULDN'T *MATCH* THEIR SPEED WITHOUT CAUSING A LOT OF ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE!

WONDER IF THE *SUB-MARINER* KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT THEM.

WELL, I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD MY *FILL* OF THE OCEAN FOR TODAY. I THINK I'LL LET THIS LITTLE ROUND OF *"TAG THE EXTRATERRESTRIALS"* GO TO *THEM.*

AS LONG AS THOSE "AQUOIDS" STAY *UNDER THE SEA*, THEY CAN'T BE THE THREAT TO THE *UNIVERSE* MY COSMIC MENTOR APPOINTED ME TO *PROTECT* EVERYBODY FROM... I DON'T *THINK.*

WEIRD, HOW *CLAUSTROPHOBIC* THE OCEAN FEELS TO ME. GIVE ME THE EMPTY EXPANSE OF *OUTER SPACE* TO SOAR THROUGH ANY DAY!

HEY-- WHAT'S THAT *ROARING SOUND?!?*

RRRRRRRR

SPDOOSH

A TIDAL WAVE IS WHAT IT WAS...

...THOUGH I'M NOT ALTOGETHER SURE IT WAS CAUSED BY THE TIDES!

FIRST MAKE SURE ANOTHER ONE'S NOT COMING, THEN LET ME HAVE A LOOK FROM A HIGHER VANTAGE POINT!

WELL, I'LL BE DOUBLED-DIPPED IN DARK MATTER! THERE'S SOMETHING ON THE HORIZON, ACROSS THE WATER, KICKING UP ONE HECK OF A WAKE!

I MAY HAVE BEEN A WASH-OUT AT FOLLOWING THINGS UNDERWATER, BUT SO HELP ME I'M NOT GOING TO LET SOMETHING UP HERE GET THE BEST OF ME.

LET ME SCAN IT WITH MY QUANTUM-BANDS, SEE IF I CAN DETERMINE THE POWER SOURCE OF ITS LOCOMOTION.

HOLY--! THERE ARE TACHYONS* COMING FROM WHATEVER-IT-IS!

*HYPOTHETICAL FASTER-THAN-LIGHT PARTICLES.

NOT THAT IT'S GOING ANYWHERE NEAR LIGHT SPEED--BUT IT'S GOING ABOUT AS FAST AS SOMETHING CAN GO WITHOUT REACHING ESCAPE VELOCITY.*

*A LITTLE LESS THAN 5 MILES PER SECOND.

ANYTHING GOING *THAT* FAST CAN'T BE UP TO ANY *GOOD*. WHEN IT REACHES LAND, THE *SONIC BOOMS* ALONE ARE GOING TO BE *DEVASTATING*.

I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO *STOP IT*. WONDER IF I CAN GET UP TO ITS *SPEED*? TACHYONS ARE OUTSIDE THE *ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM*, SO I CAN'T TAP *THEM*--

NO GO! TRY AS I MIGHT, THE GAP BETWEEN US KEEPS *INCREASING!*

MY ONLY *OTHER* OPTION THEN--

"--IS TO SHOOT A PACKAGE AT LIGHT SPEED TOWARD IS, AND HAVE IT TURN INTO SOMETHING WITH A LOT OF *AIR DRAG!*

"I *TAGGED* IT. GOOD THING IT'S RUNNING IN A RELATIVELY *STRAIGHT LINE*, ONCE I ALLOWED FOR THE EARTH'S *CURVATURE*."

AND...

A *MAN* FLOATING FACE DOWN IN THE DRINK! MY *GOLDEN PARACHUTE* WORKED ALL TOO WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE.

TOOK ME ABOUT A *MINUTE* TO GET HERE. HOPE HE HASN'T *DROWNED* IN THAT TIME!

I JUST WANTED TO *SLOW HIM DOWN*, I DIDN'T WANT TO *KILL* HIM!

HEY, MISTER--?

THANK GOD, HE'S BREATHING!

MINUTES LATER...

HE'S ALIVE, WHOEVER HE IS...BUT KEEPS DRIFTING IN AND OUT OF CONSCIOUSNESS...

DON'T RECOGNIZE HIM, BUT JUDGING BY HIS OUTFIT AND HIS PHENOMENAL SPEED, HE'S DEFINITELY SUPERHUMAN...

...WHICH MEANS AN ORDINARY HOSPITAL WON'T BE ABLE TO DO MUCH FOR HIM.

THE WEST COAST AVENGERS' HEADQUARTERS IS CLOSER THAN THE EAST. I'D BETTER ARRANGE FOR DR. KINCAID* TO MEET ME THERE.

*THE AVENGERS ON-CALL PHYSICIAN.

MEANWHILE, TEN TIME ZONES AWAY, IN THE LIGHTHOUSE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SUPER-TEAM KNOWN AS EXCALIBUR...

THANKS, MEGGAN--

WHAT IS THIS? MY HATED ENEMY CAPTAIN BRITAIN HAS COMPANIONS AS SUPERHUMANLY GIFTED AS HE? SINCE WHEN?

--A LITTLE COFFEE IS JUST THE THING TO TAKE A BIT OF THE NIP OUT OF THE NIGHT.

AFTER ALL OUR INTERDIMENSIONAL JAUNTS, A SIMPLE NIGHT OF RELAXATION IS A GODSEND.*

*THIS TALE TAKES PLACE AFTER THE "CROSS-TIME CAPER" CONCLUDES IN EXCALIBUR'S OWN BOOK.

COME JOIN US, RACHEL!

RACHEL...?

LEAVE HER ALONE, KURT SHE'S OBVIOUSLY NOT IN THE CELEBRATORY MOOD.

CAPTAIN BRITAIN HAS CHANGED SINCE LAST WE FOUGHT. HE HAS BECOME *IMPERVIOUS* TO MY MAGICKS!

PERHAPS I COULD SEIZE CONTROL OF *THIS* ONE... *NIGHTCRAWLER*, I SENSE HE IS CALLED. NO... HIS *TELEPORTATION POWERS* ARE TOO LIMITED.

THIS ONE THEN? SHE IS A *SHAPE-SHIFTER*... NAMED *MEGGAN*. HMMM...A POSSIBILITY.

LET ME EXAMINE THE LAST OF THEM, THIS *RACHEL SUMMERS*...

BY THE DARKHOLD-- *YES!* SHE IS PERFECT!

SHE POSSESSES *INCALCULABLE POWER*--OF A NATURE MY MAGICKS CANNOT BEGIN TO *FATHOM!*

RACHEL--?

MEIN GOTT-- WAS--?

SHE WILL BE THE *PERFECT INSTRUMENT* TO FREE ME FROM MY OTHERDIMENSIONAL *PRISON*--

--AND ENABLE ME TO *WREAK VENGEANCE* UPON MY ENEMIES!

LET ME NOW BECOME THE *PHOENIX!*

MEANWHILE, ON AN ESTATE IN PALOS VERDE, CALIFORNIA...

WONDER MAN--HI! YOU GET MY MESSAGE?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

HEY, I RECOGNIZE THIS OUTFIT. I THINK HE'S ONE OF THOSE "ETERNALS" WE RAN INTO A WHILE BACK*...MAKKARI, HIS NAME WAS.

HNN!

THE MED LAB'S THIS WAY.

*SEE ETERNALS VOL. 2 #12!

AND...

IF YOU GUYS'VE GOT THINGS UNDER CONTROL HERE, I'LL BE OFF.

CALL ME THE MINUTE HE WAKES UP, OKAY?

HATED TO BE SO BRUSQUE--

--BUT I DO HAVE TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE AT THE OFFICE SOME TIME TODAY!

NEW YORK, AN HOUR LATER...

MR. VAUGHN, THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HERE.

SORRY, I'M SO LATE, KAYLA... KEN...

WHO'S THAT?

YES... SOMETHING ABOUT A MAN INJURED RUNNING IN THE OCEAN.

MR. WENDELL VAUGHN, I PRESUME?

YES, MS.--?

H.O. STECKLEY. I'LL GET TO THE POINT. I'M AN *ENGINEER* WITH AN EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND IN *SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY* AND *DESIGN*.

I WISH TO *JOIN YOUR FIRM*.

WHAT--?

UH, WE REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY *OPENINGS* RIGHT NOW, MS. STECKLEY... WE'RE A *NEW* BUSINESS JUST *STARTING OUT* REALLY.

OUR WORKLOAD IS SUCH THAT WE DON'T EXACTLY *NEED* ANOTHER DESIGNER IN ORDER TO HANDLE IT.

IN FACT, WE HAVEN'T EVEN FOUND OUR *SECOND CLIENT* YET!

I'M SURPRISED YOU EVEN *HEARD* OF VAUGHN SECURITY SYSTEMS! WHY DO YOU WANT TO WORK *HERE*?

I SEE THE *POTENTIAL* HERE FOR YOUR FIRM TO BECOME ONE OF THE *GIANTS* IN THE INDUSTRY.

LET ME MAKE YOU A *PROPOSITION*, MR. VAUGHN. IF I ACQUIRE *FIVE NEW CLIENTS* FOR YOU BY THIS TIME *NEXT WEEK*, DO YOU AGREE TO *HIRE ME*?

UH... *SURE*.

VERY GOOD, SIR. I'LL SEE YOU IN A *WEEK* THEN. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EXAMINE MY *RESUME* AND CALL MY VARIOUS *REFERENCES*.

GOOD DAY TO YOU ALL.

WHY ARE YOU BOTH LOOKING AT ME LIKE I'M OUT OF MY *MIND*? WE'VE BEEN CANVASSING MANHATTAN FOR CLIENTS FOR *MONTHS* NOW. NO *WAY* WILL SHE BE ABLE TO DRUM UP THAT MUCH BUSINESS IN A WEEK.

HERE'S HER *RESUME*.

THANKS, I'LL, UH, BE IN MY *OFFICE*.

HAVEN'T CHECKED IN ON *EON* IN HIS LITTLE POCKET DIMENSION BEHIND MY BOOKCASE FOR A WHILE. DON'T WANT MY MENTOR TO THINK I'M AS *FLAKY* AS MY OFFICE-MATES DO.

I ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR *IMMINENCE*, MY PROTECTOR.

LIKEWISE.

SO HOW'S IT *GOING*? WE ANY CLOSER TO ELIMINATING ALL THE POTENTIAL "*MENACES FROM OUTER SPACE*" YOU SAY IS GOING TO HIT EARTH?

IF YOU WOULD LIKE, I COULD RECREATE MY *MENTO-PROJECTION* OF YOUR WORLD.

WHY *NOT*? HAVEN'T LOOKED AT THE *BIG PICTURE* IN A WHILE.

THE *POINTS OF LIGHT* ARE EXTRATERRESTRIALS WHOSE IDENTITIES YOU HAVE NOT AS YET ASCERTAINED.

MAN, SEEMS LIKE NO MATTER *HOW MANY* I TAG--

THERE ARE ALWAYS *MORE* TO--

WHAT'S THAT-- FIERY *BIRD-THING*?

IT IS THE *PHOENIX-FORCE*, AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL ENERGY-ENTITY THAT TAKES MORTAL *HOST-FORMS*.

THERE APPEARS TO BE SOMETHING *AMISS* WITH IT.

ALL RIGHT! THIS MAY BE *IT*--THE BIG ONE WE'VE BEEN *WAITING FOR!*

I'M *OUTTA* HERE!

AND, AFTER GIVING HIS EMPLOYEES YET ANOTHER SOMEWHAT UNLIKELY REASON FOR HIS **ABSENCE**, WENDELL VAUGHN CHANGES INTO HIS **BATTLE GARB** AND--

NOT SURE IF I'M UP FOR THE *ULTIMATE* **BATTLE** I'VE BEEN GROOMED FOR--

--BUT BOY, WOULD I LIKE TO HAVE IT *BEHIND* ME! THE ANTICIPATION IS REALLY STARTING TO *GET* TO ME!

WHILE, SOMEWHERE NORTH OF LONDON...

GET--

I WON'T!

--OUT--

I'M IN!

--OF--

YOU'RE MINE!

--MY--

--MIND!!!

I RULE!

:HUUUK:

YOUR RESISTANCE WAS AS ADMIRABLE, DEAR LADY, AS IT WAS *FUTILE*. YOU ARE MY *OBEDIENT SERVANT* HENCEFORTH.

NOW, USING THE INEXPLICABLE *ENERGIES* AT YOUR COMMAND, I BID YOU TO REND THE *CURTAIN OF SPACE* SEPARATING THIS WORLD FROM *OTHERWORLD!*

CREATE A *FOCAL POINT* WHERE THE FABRIC IS STRIPPED *THREADBARE--*

--A POINT WHERE I MIGHT TRAIN THE OCCULT ENERGIES AT *MY* COMMAND FROM HERE ON THE *OTHER SIDE--*

--AND TOGETHER WE SHALL POKE A *TINY HOLE* BETWEEN OUR REALMS OF REALITY!

YES! *YES!* WE ARE *DOING IT*, DEAR LADY! MERE *GAUZE* NOW SEPARATES US! MORE ENERGY-- *UNLEASH MORE ENERGY!*

I AM *ALMOST* THERE!

AT LAST *I AM BACK!*

LET THE WORLD *BEWARE--*

--*MODRED THE MYSTIC* WALKS THE WORLD ONCE MORE!

AHH! TO FEEL THE *FERTILE SOIL* OF MY NATIVE LAND BENEATH *MY FEET* AGAIN! IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG--*FAR* TOO LONG!

OH, HOW THE ACCURSED *MERLIN* WILL PAY FOR *BANISHING* THIS SON OF ENGLAND--*

*BACK IN CAPTAIN AMERICA #306.

BUT *FIRST*, LADY PHOENIX, WE MUST CLOSE THE *HOLE* WE MADE.

RELAX. YOUR *RAGING ENERGIES*, STAUNCH THE *FLOW OF POWER!*

THERE. THE HOLE IS *SEALED.*

AND NOW, LET US TAKE TO THE *SKIES!* LET ME LEAD YOU, MY BIRD OF FLAME, TO WHERE OUR ESOTERIC ENERGIES NEED *NEXT* BE PUT TO USE!

HOLD IT *RIGHT THERE*, YOU TWO--!

WHAT IS *THIS*--?

THE NAME'S *QUASAR*, AND I'M HERE TO SEE WHAT ALL THE *FIREWORKS* WERE ABOUT!

THE LADY IN RED MUST BE *PHOENIX*, BUT WHO THE HECK'S THAT JOKER WITH THE *GREEN CAPE?*

LADY PHOENIX -- INCINERATE THE INTERLOPER.

YES, LORD MODRED.

FWAASH

WHOA-NO! I WAS EVEN *EXPECTING* AN ENERGY-ASSAULT--

--BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT ONE AS FORCEFUL AS *THIS!*

I'D BETTER GET MY QUANTUM-BANDS WORKING ON *SPECTRAL-ANALYZING* HER SPECIFIC ENERGY--

--SO I CAN *TAP INTO* HER POWER AND FEED IT RIGHT BACK *AT* HER!

OKAY, MISS -- I GAVE YOU *FAIR WARNING* TO COOL IT...

...NOW I'M GONNA HAVE TO GO ON THE *OFFENSIVE!*

FK

OOM

IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO ERECT A *LENS* POWERFUL ENOUGH TO GATHER HER BLAST AND *REDIRECT* IT--!

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE THE LENS IS GOING TO BE ABLE TO *TAKE!* ONCE I MAKE SOMETHING, IT'S REAL HARD TO MAKE IT *STRONGER*-- ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S TAKING *ABUSE* LIKE THIS!

WAIT A MINUTE, MA'AM-- YOU MAY NOT HAVE *HEARD* OF ME, BUT I'M ONE OF THE *GOOD GUYS!* YOU MESS WITH ME AT THE RISK OF MAKING ME THINK *YOU'RE* ONE OF THE *BAD GUYS!*

MY MASTER SAYS YOU MUST *DIE!*

"MASTER"? COME ON! SLAVERY WENT OUT IN THE *NINETEENTH CENTURY!*

OH, MAN-- THE AMOUNT OF *JUICE* SHE'S POURING OUT IS *PHENOMENAL!*

WHATEVER THIS PHOENIX-ENTITY IS SHE'S DERIVING HER POWER FROM, IT HAS THE RAW POWER OF A *STAR!*

TRY AS I MIGHT, I'VE BEEN UNABLE SO FAR TO PLACE ALL OF HER ENERGY UNDER *CONTROL* OF MY *QUANTUM-BANDS!*

GOOD THING I'VE GOT *MOST* OF IT, THOUGH-- THE ENERGY SHE'S CHANNELING IS ENOUGH TO OBLITERATE THE *BRITISH ISLES!*

IT WOULD APPEAR I MUST LEND MY DARK MAGICKS TO THE TASK--

--WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE IN POINTLESS BATTLES!

LET ME CONJURE THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTORRAK!

WHAT DEVILTRY IS THIS? MY MINION SEEMS TO BE UNABLE TO BEST THE FLYING INTERLOPER!

WHA--?

SOMETHING'S GOT ME--!

CAN'T SEE--CAN'T MOVE A MUSCLE! WHAT HAPPENED?

AHA! THE YOUTH IS BOUND BY MY IRRESISTIBLE MAGICKS!

MAGIC? DID HE SAY MAGIC?

MILORD--?

QUELL YOUR ENERGIES, MY DEAR--WE NEED NOT EXPEND ANY MORE ON HIM! THE CRIMSON BANDS WILL UNDO HIM SOON ENOUGH!

AND NOW, DEAR LADY, LET US *AWAY!* WITH YOUR HELP I AM GOING TO FREE MY DEMONIC MASTER, *CATHON*, AND THEN WE SHALL ALL WAGE WAR UPON *MERLIN* AND HIS PITIFUL DEFENDERS!

SOUND LIKE THEY'RE *GOING!* THEY'RE GONNA *LEAVE* ME HERE BOUND UP LIKE A PIG ON A SPIT!

BLAST IT! THERE'S YET *ANOTHER* THING LYING OUTSIDE THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM THAT MY QUANTUM-BANDS HAVE ABSOLUTELY *NO CONTROL OVER!*

I *HATE* THIS!

THE BONDS KEEP GETTING TIGHTER AND *TIGHTER--!*

EON! THIS IS QUASAR. COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT *TRUE MAGIC!* I NEED TO KNOW *QUICKLY!*

I'LL LOOK INTO IT AND *GET BACK* TO YOU.

GREAT. BY *THAT* TIME THESE RINGS WILL HAVE *CONSTRICTED* ME TO *DEATH--!*

I'VE GOT TO DO *SOMETHING!* WAIT! I REMEMBER READING SOMETHING IN *FRESHMAN LIT* ABOUT HOW *IRON* IS SUPPOSED TO *INTERFERE* WITH MAGIC IN SOME WAY!

IF I COULD FIND SOMETHING *IRON* SOMEWHERE-- A *FENCE* OR A *FARM IMPLEMENT* OR SOMETHING--!

BETTER GET TO THE *GROUND* FIRST!

VRTCH

OKAY NOW, FIRST I'VE GOT TO CREATE A BIG *ELECTROMAGNET* THAT WILL--*HEY!* WHAT'S THAT *WHOOSHING* SOUND?

NGGH!

CAPTAIN--LOOK!

SOME SORT OF BANDS OF *ELDRITCH FORCE!*

LET ME TEST MY *MYSTIC MIGHT* AGAINST THEM!

WHO THE--?

WHO *ARE* YOU, MISTER--AND WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

NAME'S *QUASAR*. I HAD A RUN-IN WITH A MAGICIAN CALLING HIMSELF *MODRED* AND HIS SERVANT, THE *PHOENIX...!*

SERVANT?

MODRED?

NYUUK!

BTAK

WE ARE *FRIENDS* OF PHOENIX. I'M *NIGHTCRAWLER*. THIS IS *MEGGAN*, *CAPTAIN BRITAIN*, AND *WIDGET*. COLLECTIVELY, WE ARE *EXCALIBUR!*

THIS *MAGICIAN* YOU SPOKE OF MUST HAVE PHOENIX IN HIS *THRALL!*

AFTER A TERSE DISCUSSION, THE AVENGER AGREES TO COLLABORATE WITH ENGLAND'S PREEMINENT SUPER-TEAM...

I THINK I CAN *TRUST* THESE GUYS. THEY DID SAVE MY *LIFE*, AFTER ALL.

I'VE HEARD OF *CAPTAIN BRITAIN*-- HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE U.K.'S ANSWER TO CAPTAIN AMERICA. AND *NIGHTCRAWLER*, I BELIEVE, USED TO BE ONE OF THE *X-MEN*.

WISH I'D'VE MANAGED TO BREAK OUT OF MODRED'S MAGIC ON MY *OWN*, THOUGH!

UNGLAUBLICH!

APPARENTLY THE AMERICAN WASN'T *EXAGGERATING* WHEN HE SAID HE COULD TRANSPORT US FASTER THAN WE COULD GO *OURSELVES*!

BRIAN--WE ARE CROSSING THE *ENGLISH CHANNEL*!

I KNOW--AND ONCE THE TWO OF US ARE OUTSIDE THE *MYSTICAL SPHERE* OF OUR *NATIVE LAND*--

--OUR POWERS *DIMINISH*!

TO RESCUE RACHEL, IT IS A *RISK* WE WILL HAVE TO *TAKE*, MEG!

QUASAR? I HAVE THAT *INFORMATION* YOU REQUESTED.

NOT NOW, EON!

I THINK I *SEE* HER!

I REMEMBER YOU *MENTIONING* THIS *MODRED* TO ME ONCE, BRIAN--HE'S AN ENEMY OF *MERLIN'S*, ISN'T HE?

THAT'S RIGHT.

AND, BY THE BRIGHT GODDESS, HE'S GOING TO *WISH* HE'D NEVER FOUND HIS WAY BACK TO THIS *DIMENSION*.

THEY HAVEN'T *SEEN* US YET! OKAY, MODRED, IT'S *PAYBACK TIME*!

LET'S SEE IF *YOU* HAVE AS MUCH TROUBLE GETTING OUT OF *MY OWN BONDS* AS I HAD *YOURS*!

WHAT-- MMPPPPH!

MASTER--?

MMMNFF!

UH-OH! THIS IS GONNA BE TRICKY--

--THREE QUANTUM-FEATS AT THE SAME TIME!

UNDER HER ONSLAUGHT, CAN'T KEEP THEM ALL CLEARLY VISUALIZED!

SOMETHING'S GOT TO GIVE!

ACH--!

OH!

SPDOOSH

PHOENIX IS REALLY TURNING UP THE *HEAT*! I'M POURING SO MUCH EFFORT INTO *ABSORBING* ALL OF HER ENERGY AND TRYING TO *DISSIPATE* IT--

--THAT I THINK MY BONDS AROUND MODRED ARE *WEAKENING*!

PFAFF! I'M *FREE*!!!

UH-OH!

YOU INSIPID *FOOL*, YOU *DARE* ASSAULT THE DARK DISCIPLE OF AN *ELDER GOD*!?! YOU'LL *PAY* FOR SUCH EFFRONTERY!

GOTTA THINK OF SOMETHING *QUICK*!

PHOENIX-- *STOP*!

GOT IT!

A *FUNNEL*! IT SIPHONS OFF PHOENIX'S *HARD ENERGY*-- CONVERTS IT TO *CONCUSSIVE FORCE*-- AND REDIRECTS IT BACK AT THE SILVER-HAIRED *SORCERER*!

STOP YOUR BOMBARDMENT!!!

SHE STOPPED IT.

BAMF

WOK

OKAY, WIDGET-- IT'S OUR MOVE! NOW! READY TO 'PORT?

NOW, MEIN FREUND-- FASHION YOUR INTERDIMENSIONAL GATEWAY!

WHA--?

PING

HEY-- WHAT'S GOING ON--?

YOU DID IT!

SOMEONE MIND TELLING ME WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

WIDGET HERE OPENED A PORTAL TO SOME FAR DISTANT DIMENSION AND NIGHTCRAWLER PUSHED HIM THROUGH. WITH ANY LUCK, WE WON'T BE HEARING FROM MODRED FOR QUITE SOME TIME!

OH.

RACHEL...?

THE PHOENIX-- HOW IS SHE?

MODRED'S MENTAL DOMINATION SEEMS TO HAVE FADED AS SOON AS HE DID.

WHAT HAPPENED--? WHAT AM I DOING OUT HERE?

WE DECIDED A LITTLE TRIP ACROSS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL IN A RAFT MIGHT BE JUST THE THING TO CHEER YOU UP, FRAULEIN!

I GUESS SHE'S BACK TO NORMAL...WHATEVER NORMAL MEANS FOR A WOMAN COEXISTING WITH AN ANCIENT ENERGY-BEING?

GUESS SHE'S NOT THE BIG THREAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.

AND AFTER ESCORTING EXCALIBUR HOME...

QUASAR? WOULD YOU LIKE THE INFORMATION YOU ASKED FOR NOW?

NO, EON. JUST FORGET IT.

MAN. WHAT'S MY PROBLEM? EVEN THOUGH THE GOOD GUYS WON, I FEEL LOUSY.

NO WONDER--YET ANOTHER FACET OF MY INEFFECTUALNESS HAS BEEN REVEALED TO ME.

SOME TWO-BIT MAGICIAN NEARLY ACED ME-- THE HIGH AND MIGHTY PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE.

WHAT A JOKE I AM. IF THIS HAD BEEN THE BIG THREAT, THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD BE PUSHING UP DAISIES RIGHT NOW, THANKS TO ME.

LET'S FACE IT. EON MADE A BAD CHOICE PICKING AN AIRHEAD LIKE ME TO BE HIS CHAMPION.

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I FALL APART COMPLETELY--

--AND THERE WON'T BE A SOUL AROUND TO PICK UP THE PIECES!

End.